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A NEW IDEA, INVOLVING A NEW DEFINITION OF LAW.

THE EXCEEDING LOVE OF GOD.

As made manifest in the revelation to man of the

TEN COMMANDMENTS.

by Thomas ~~Stevens~~ Waterman.

It is with delicacy I address you upon a subject so important as law; but the exigencies of society demand that investigation be made for the cause, as well as remedy, of the existing demoralization in political, commercial, and social life.

The present extreme will shortly rebound, in this regard; history will repeat itself; but probably not before financial, and perhaps political, revulsion shall have shaken human reason into the acknowledgment that all things else *seem*, while character alone *is*. What are to be the foundations of human character in the coming century of national history, will depend, in some measure, upon what action, if any, you take upon the subject proposed in this paper.

First, The present state of things cannot be excused, or mitigated, on the ground that the world is far in advance of three hundred years ago.

Second, This state of things is not the result of a reaction from Puritan austerity, though many would have us so believe.

What then are the causes? Among many, stands prominent an almost universal disposition to teach that the "moral" law is not binding in the original sense; that the Christian dispensation has swept away the decalogue, as well as the ceremonial law.

This loosening of moral obligation has produced its legitimate fruit in the carnival of crime, which has lately moved the foundations of society.

This subject is of great importance, because it pertains to that class of first principles which, when correctly and clearly stated, the truth being stripped of all entanglement, half wins the battle in the statement.

The truth by its own inherent beauty and aptness instils itself into the mind, and becomes the foundation and bias of individual and national character.

The change in the form of civil government from the autocratic, to a government "of the people," "by the people," "for the people," necessitates on the part of the

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people a clear understanding as to the authoritative source of law.

The definition of law in the mind of an ordinarily well-educated man is a rule of conduct, laid down and established by competent authority, prescribing what shall be, and what shall not be done.

Under an autocratic government, he accepts the rule and passively obeys or actively disobeys the law unquestioned.

But when the people are to give authority to the law, the question is anxiously asked, What is law?

This is the question which at this moment agitates the world. We are now in a chaos of transition. Do you doubt it? Then answer the question, What shall be done with the murderer?

Do you say that the Creator is a law-giver, and that law is his sovereign will; that is truth, but a truth that belongs to an age of the world that is passing away. The revelations of the Creator have now reached that point in human experience where "love casts out fear," and mankind draw near to behold the glory, which was hidden, until Christ taught "the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." And though wise men and noble have ever since seen and written concerning it, still to the masses of struggling humanity its beauty and glory are even yet unknown.

As the gold of California was hidden, so the Creator's wisdom has hidden this truth till the world was ripe for its development. The needs of society have called it forth, and men with astonishment behold it springing from beneath their very feet, way-worn and dusty.

The exceeding love of God, as made manifest in the REVELATION to man of the ten commandments.

It is through this river of love, manifested in this, not simply "moral," but constitutional law, that the ambassadors of the Gospel must bring men to the ocean of love in Christ. The one must open the way to the other. One cause of the present demoralization is the fact, that the church has preached salvation with nothing to be saved from. Christ came to heal. The law makes manifest the disease.

It is at this point that past definitions of law fail to meet the necessities of the case. To the thoughtful man of the nineteenth century, law is no longer an arbitrary rule of conduct, but has a deeper significance. To the scientific man of to-day Law is the *nature* of the being or thing governed. To know the law, you must unfold the nature, and in the unfolding you will lay bare the law; not disconnected and arbitrary, but natural and inherent. In the light of the present necessity, what are the ten commandments?

They are a statement to man of his own nature not

A NEW IDEA, INVOLVING A NEW DEGREE OF COMPARISON.

CARNIVAL NIGHT, 1898.

February 15th 9.40 P.M.

Destination Butterfield Maine.
POSITIVE, COMPARATIVE, SUPERLATIVE, INFINITE.

A SUCCINCT STATEMENT

OF SOME OF THE TRUTHS OF CHRISTIANITY.

First. How evil came into this world, and why it is permitted to continue here? *Answer Middle Second page*

Second. Ask the faithful, and astute educators of this closing nineteenth century, what is the end and object of all education? The development of a reliable thinker, with as broad and deep a foundation as personality will permit. One who will state his thought, in reliable logic, clearly enunciated in word and action.

Ask them for the gold standard of character?

Able, Accurate, Alert, Reliable, Successful,

REPENTANT.

Permeated with the Creator's love. A channel overflowing upon humanity. Possessing one talent or ten, faithful.

What is knowledge? An acquaintance with facts.

What is wisdom? Power to use and move among facts.

What is science? An acquaintance with the relation which one fact holds to another fact, or one set of facts holds to another set of facts.

First, No misstatement or mistake is a fact. Mr. Charles Darwin, an eminent modern naturalist, stated that the language spoken by the wild tribes of Terra del Fuego was "hardly articulate." "But a missionary—Giacomo Bovi—reduced their language to grammar and dictionary, revealing many words, sweet and pleasant words, "full of vowels. The grammar as regular and irregular as in the "classical languages." *Witness Encyclopaedia Britannica*

Accept John C. Calhoun's premises, and you must accept his conclusions. But the premises were faulty; and the "Slave Holder's Rebellion" cost the nation eight billions of dollars, and a million of men in their graves before their time.

Ill advised action at La Rochelle, France, in 1621 and 1626, gave rise to conditions that culminated in the "corrupt and deadly despotism of the eighteenth century," which caused the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror.

When Christianity, as an energizing force, shall have grasped and carried into the daily life of the nations Christ's statement, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven," then will the world have a millenium. Never before.

Let every saloon in this broad land, be changed into an infant-school room; at the expense, if need be, of the national government;

Shocked the civilized world, rung the knell of an institution, opened a new era in the world's history.

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with a motherly Christ loving woman as teacher. With not a toddling waif left in our streets, or on our plains, or on our mountains, there taught, before they are five years old, to curse and blight our so-called Christian civilization. Then will the Creator smile upon our efforts for a millenium. Never before.

Let the nation start its boys and girls right; from their earliest childhood. Ignorance and vice are the gigantic enemies of the race. Do you ask, what can the nations do, against these silent and insidious foes? Throw the Bible as a story book among the people, with John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." Let them read for entertainment, and refreshment, when weary and worn. Read it as a story book to their children. Job and Esther and Ruth and Bethlehem. And the Creator, in His infinite wisdom, loving-kindness, gentleness and mercy, will give that nation Bible development. Which means ability to think and reason: common sense and thrift. Bible development, as the Creator intended, breeds wealth and power for the nation. And the want of it, breeds crime and squalor and brutal greed for any nation.

Witness 225 millions of nominal Christians; each unit, paying a weekly stipend, to enforce a superstition, that shuts them out from Bible development, which made England, Germany and the United States what they are to-day. For the opposite policy, witness Italy, Spain, Cuba, Sicily and the Philippine Island; in history, Germany, devastated by the "Thirty Years War;" for no purpose but to drive out, Luther's Bible.

This preliminary study brings us to the only object of this paper. A succinct statement of some of the truths of Christianity; involving a study of the infinite; disassociated from the indefinite.

The highest act of Creative will, wisdom, love and power, was the evolution of a free moral agent. A necessity was laid upon the Creator, in the production of a free moral agent, causing Him to inclose the germ of spirit life, "the immortal soul," in an animal.

The Creator, in His infinite wisdom, determined to create a being whose distinguishing quality should be, the power of choice. That is, absolute freedom in choice. A being, who would of his own free will, always, and forever, choose the right.

"Lucifer," "The Sun of the Morning." < "Isaiah 14:12." was the highest intelligence possible to Creative skill and power; possessed this power of absolute freedom in choice. Created to be the personal friend of the Creator; he fell from his high position; choosing arrogant pride, instead of humility. The Creator held council with Himself. Gen. 1:26. "Let us make man in our image." Inclose the germ of spirit life in an animal; so that man in the seed form, in his earliest existence, *must* learn to know, and triumph over evil, in all its forms and contingencies. If, in this dual existence, the inclosed spirit, as a unit, can subdue the animal, control its appetites and passions, and while supplying its necessities, resist the evil influences of other beings, equal and superior, that unit, will stand secure for all eternity. Choosing right, rejecting wrong. Rejecting evil, pain and sorrow.

The cogent logic of the shortness of human life, points to one object; that man in his dual, as well as germinal existence, shall be brought by natural causes, into contact with evil, under the cumulative circumstances of human life; accompanied by all its extraordinary contingencies, accidents, and overwhelming necessities. While thus circumstanced, if he would fulfill the Creator's intention, he must master the animal, hold it in strict control; being aided by the indwelling spirit of the Creator.

* The king of Babylon being addressed as his impersonation.

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This tumultuous experience, endured by each unit for a brief period; beyond which lies an eternity of perfected freedom, commonly called Heaven.

Satan thought himself as "Prince of this world" safe, when he dragged man down to his own level. As the legend states; The Creator said, "I will of this My lowest intelligence, create a being, who shall take your place, as My personal friend." "The Prince of this world" laughed; asking, How can it be done? "I am supreme, a higher than I thou canst not create." The Creator fulfilling His eternal intention, took the form of man; thus creating, in the "fulness of time," a being infinitely superior to Satan. Yet, "a very man." This is in accord with the Creator's style of statement. Human language cannot make a more absolute and conclusive statement.

Whatever man is, the Creator took upon Himself; and Himself became, "a very man." Supreme creation. While at the same time He remained "Very God," "Creator," "Everlasting Father." *Isaiah 9:6*

The Creator, in this new relation, ordained for man, the creature, "a new birth," "a new creation." Subject to man's absolute free will and choice. *John 14:7*

This new birth. This new creation, is, and has been for nineteen hundred years, freely offered to all mankind. Savage or civilized; in accord with the Creator's infinite methods. Acts 10:35. To be accepted or rejected, because it is a gift, free and simple. A test of character from a loving creator to the creature. The creature, accepting, becomes the creature of His love. A new creature. Galatians 6:15. A new creation. Witness Ephesians 4:24. "Sons of God." "Heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ. Romans 8:14 to 19. *Roman 2:14*

Who in the post gospel of Divine Revelation said, "To him that overcometh; will I grant to sit with Me in My throne." Christ's own words. Rev. 3:21. The Creator sits upon that throne at this moment, ruling the universe as a man; and every redeemed sinner belongs to the royal family. Witness Revelation 3:21. II. Timothy 2:12. Do you as a student of the infinite ask, What is this new birth? The Creator's own statement. Rev. 3:20. "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door; I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." His infinite love and wisdom, enters no door, where he is not welcome; though standing; waiting, at the door of every heart. The fact of hearing His voice, and opening the door; is evidence to the Divine mind, that the Soul is qualified to be a redeemed sinner. The entrance of the Divine Presence makes him such. The opening of the door, and the entrance of the Divine Presence, is the new birth; "Ye must be born again." John 3:7. Free will; opens the door. Absolute freedom in choice; opens the door, and the Creator enters. The joint act of opening and entrance. Submission; with all that term implies; and adoption, creates, man, woman, child "a new creature," "born of God." John 1:12, 13. Romans 8:7, 9, 11, 14 to 17. Jesus Christ the source of all life enters the door. *Col 1:16*

Our Creator becomes our companion, and personal friend; invisible; but real beyond all comprehension.

Never throughout the ages of eternity will He, for one instant, be separated from those, who have chosen to open the door of their hearts love, for His entrance. Heb. 13:5. All this is perfectly natural, right, and proper, "Absolutely good form."

The indwelling Creator, by His companionship, makes possible the gold standard of character. In His sight there is no other character. Without this indwelling of the Creator as a personal friend, life is

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exceedingly uncomfortable, because contrary to nature, which is the law of our existence. All mankind were created of one blood; do you doubt it, then ask the microscope; and constituted to be temples of the living God. And if they are not, it is bad business for them personally, and for the community by which they are surrounded. As a student of the infinite, you ask, What is nature? The Creator's wisdom, will, love and power made manifest in creation. The Creator, putting a germ of His own life, into a human form. As man, entering human society at the bottom; continuing at the bottom for the average life of the race; thirty-three years; then ending this life in an animal enclosure; as if He were a criminal; upon that instrument of torture, the Roman cross; dying of a broken heart, instant death. A heart torn asunder by mental anguish; of which few cases are known to have occurred, in all history. The Creator by this wonderful adaptation of means to ends, entering into perfect sympathy with human life, in all its phases of monotony, trial, temptation, disappointment, and anguish. "A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;" as a unit of the human race, made perfect through suffering. By suffering, learned obedience, and became the author of eternal salvation, to all them that obey Him. Witness Isaiah 53:3. Hebrews 5:8, 9. Thus by fellowship of suffering, entering into relations with men, as savior, redeemer, comforter, benefactor, teacher and friend. In each and all as human; as Divine. Perfect in each. In all this, the freedom of the human will, creating a love, "which the angels desire to look into," and "are not able."

All this statement of facts, is under the domain of the infinite, and should be carefully considered, and so classed; to be treasured in the memory, as a part of every man's heart life, which heart he has given to the Creator, a free will offering; superlatively precious to Him, who is a "Faithful Creator." A gift, as precious to Him, as if there were not another created being in the universe. Witness Revelations 2:17. The all-wise, all-loving Creator, comprehending His loved one in a name. The Creator's estimate of character, set forth in a "pet" name; and no two in the universe identical. Peter 4:19

Do you ask, What is nature? Nature is the Creator's ideal, inclosed within each unit of created organism. That ideal to be realized, according as the law is obeyed which, in the mind of the Creator applies to that unit. Infinite variety has been ordained and enforced by Creative will, wisdom, love and power. AND SECOND CAUSES ARE HIS GLORY.

The Creator's will, is immutable, changeless law; and within that law; He creates from eternity to eternity by personal supervision. Witness Luke 12:6, 7. Matthew 6:8. Nature and law were simultaneous and identical in the mind of the Creator. When man was, the law was. And this statement is true concerning every being or thing created; from the universe itself, to the parasite upon the body of a microscopic insect. The principle, underlying all others, is the personality of the Creator. "I am," Exodus 3:14, associated with the individuality of the created unit, "Thou shalt." Please notice the personality of the Creator, as shown forth in this infinite condensation. "I am." "Thou shalt." "I dwell." *Isaiah 57:15;*

Science seeks for the cause of variety, it seeks at the wrong end with a "muckrake." The cause, behold! The Creator Himself acknowledge and obey; that in your own person, may be developed unfolded, drawn out, made manifest, His wonderful ideal, even the infinite, as it dwells in you. x

THOMAS STORRS WATERMAN,

ELECTION DAY, Nov. 3, 1896.

Orange, New Jersey.

This sentence signifies limitless possibilities of development as apparent to our Creator.

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originated on Mt. Sinai, but enacted in the very article of creation; when man was, the law was. Every human being is a living enactment, and violation metes out penalty, within and without, to self, friend, and society, by natural sequence here and hereafter. The church has been taught to look upon the law of God with terror. But God is love, His law is love only; and any other view is a temptation of evil, to hide the exceeding love of God behind a frown.

To say that the Creator is a law-giver, and that the ten commandments are his sovereign will, is truth; but not a simple statement of truth. What, then, are the ten commandments? They are the plan upon which creative will and wisdom made man. In them are laid bare the beams and timbers of the framework upon which man was built; a complete comprehensive statement of man's nature and its requirements; a code of laws which, if obeyed, would ensure human happiness, and all its necessary qualities of human character.

A constitution framed by creative wisdom, and promulgated in the van of all intelligent human legislation; suited to the human race, in every age, climate, and stage of development.

To discover that true, original, essential nature, was utterly beyond the power of human wisdom; and for this reason, and this reason only, the Creator made the wondrous disclosure. In everything else, he left man to discover for himself the nature of things, in their relation to his own welfare. The exceeding love of God, as made manifest by this communication, may be seen in the mass of misery saved the race by the knowledge of it, on the part of those who have chosen to obey it, and the fearful ruin that sooner or later overwhelms those who disobey it.

In this light, its enunciation seems an act of supreme mercy, second only to the revelation of a Redeemer.

Christ, the Son of God, and very man, obeyed this law perfectly, thus vindicating creative wisdom. *Romans 8:3,*

He said, while on earth, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We can almost hear him say, "Because I loved you, therefore I gave them." "In keeping of them is great reward." He also teaches, in Matthew v. 17, 18 and 19, that the law shall be fulfilled in the person of each of his saints to the extent of every jot and tittle; and the reward pronounced upon him who shall voluntarily do and teach them, is, that he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

There was no revelation of penalty on those tables of stone. All that we know of penalty, save that which was local and transitory, was made known by Christ himself. Heaven and hell, though local habitations, are infinitely more states of mind; fastened, riveted, by the second birth or the want of it, into a constitutional bias never to be changed.

* Our repentance, faith and supreme endeavor made perfect by the Redeemer's infinite fulfillment, very man; imputed to His redeemed, received by faith alone. Sealed by His propitiatory death.

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How is it regarding fire and brimstone, and eternal punishment? When the Creator, through the poverty of human language, uses a figure to express or illustrate a reality, the reality cannot be less than the figure. Do you doubt it? Then visit any city hospital, and there see the dire consequences of violated nature in its physical phase. If these be so terrible, how about the finer and higher organization of the soul?

Reward also was not revealed save in one instance, regarding the honoring of parents, and this can easily be shown to be a natural sequence, before it reaches the dignity of a special blessing.

Great stress has been laid by scientists upon the necessity for the adoption of measures that may result in the gradual improvement of the race. Show me the man whose ancestors, paternal and maternal, have for ten generations kept the commandments, and I will show you the best brain and the purest blood on the face of the earth.

The only objection man can make to this evolution of his essential nature is its perfection, and the fact that it was revealed in the form of a command to an imperfect being. Which amounts to saying, Men should not know the best way of taking care of themselves; and that a friend should be choice in his language, and should not say, "Thou shalt not" do thyself a serious injury.

As the revelation was made by a perfect being, it could not be otherwise than perfect. As the language was used by the Creator to the creature, it was highly appropriate, and detracts not from the exceeding love therein manifested.

A distinguished foreigner lately ascribed the prosperity of these United States of America to the religion of her people. May I be allowed to add that obedience to the ten commandments is the foundation of our religion, of our Christianity, of our prosperity. Our fathers heard the words of Christ, and doing them, imperfectly indeed, yet doing them, built our national prosperity upon the rock.

Beware, O nation! of the sand of disobedience, for upon it is disaster and ruin. Witness the Reign of Terror in France, 1792; her late fearful war; our own Rebellion, and the later developments of crime and consequent disaster in our midst.

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